

App. No. 10/737,254
Amendment Dated December 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. The Office Action, dated September 23, 2005: rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 12-20, and objected to Claims 2, 4 and 7-11. An Examiner's interview was conducted on December 21, 2005, to clarify that: the action is non-final, and that claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 12-20 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by D'Angelico (US Patent No. 6,166,530). Claims 17 and 18 were further objected to for various formalities. Claim 2 is cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 7, 13-15 and 17-18 are amended. The objections and rejections are believed to be overcome for the reasons stated below. New claims 21 – 26 are added. No new matter is added.

Allowable Subject Matter with Objection of Claims 2, 4 and 7-11

The Office Action objected to Claims 2, 4 and 7-11 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but noted these claims would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2, placing claim 1 in proper form for allowance. Claims 4 and 7 have been amended, placing them in independent form. Since claims 8 – 11 depend upon and further limit claim 7, though any intervening claims, it is proposed that claims 1, 4, and 7 – 11 are in proper form for allowance and notice to that effect is requested. New Claims 21 – 26 are believed to be in accord with the already allowable subject matter found in claims 2, 4 and 7, and should be given an early allowance upon consideration.

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Objection of Claims 17-18

The Office Action objected to claims 17-18. In particular, claim 17 was objected to as being awkwardly worded, while claim 18 was objected to as being dependent upon claim 17. Claim 17 has been amended. It is proposed that claims 17 - 18 are in proper form for allowance and notice to that effect is requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 12-20 under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by *D'Angelo* (US Patent No. 6,166,530). Claims 1, 13 and 17 have been amended. Claims 3, 5, 6 and 12 depend from claim 1. Claims 14 - 16 depend from claim 13. Claims 18 - 20 depend from claim 17.

Applicant's believe that all pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art references, and in particular over the *D'Angelo* reference (US Patent No. 6,166,530) for reasons previously presented on the record on July 6, 2005 in the parent application. In particular, the principal of operation along with the operational features of the interrelated components described in the *D'Angelo* reference are incompatible with the claimed operational relationship of Applicant's independent claims 1, 13 and 17.

However, in order to promote an early allowance of the claims, Applicant's have elected to amend the independent claims numbered 1, 13, and 17 to place the application in proper form for allowance. As such, each of the independent claims now includes limitations that are substantially in accord with claim 2. For example, claim 1 as amended now recites that "the

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current sense circuit comprises a first transistor that is series coupled to the load circuit via a resistor such that the sense signal corresponds to a voltage associated with the resistor, wherein the first transistor includes a control terminal that is biased in common with the power device". Since claim 2 was indicated as allowable, it is believed that dependent claim 1 is also in proper form for allowance. Dependent claims 3, 5, 6 and 12 depend upon and further limit independent claim 1, and are thus also proposed to be allowable. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 12 are now in proper form for allowance and notice to that effect is requested.

Similar to claim 1, claim 13 has been amended to describe that the current sense means "comprises a transistor means that is series coupled to the load circuit via a resistor means such that the sense signal corresponds to a voltage associated with the resistor means, wherein the transistor means is arranged for common biasing with the power device". Claim 13 is now believed to include language that comports with Applicant's claim 2, and thus is proposed to be allowable for at least that reason. Claims 14 and 15, which depend from claim 13, have been amended to correct an antecedent relationship that is required by amendment of claim 13, and not to overcome some basis of rejection. Claims 14 – 16 depend from and further limit independent claim 13 and should be allowable for at least that reason. Claims 13 – 16 are now in proper form for allowance and notice to that effect is requested.

Similar to claims 1 and 13, claim 17 has been amended to describe: "biasing a transistor circuit in common with the power device", "coupling a current from the transistor circuit to the load circuit through a resistor circuit", and sensing "the current through the resistor circuit to provide a sense signal that is responsive to the output current from the power device". Claim 17


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is now believed to include language that comports with Applicant's claim 2, and thus is proposed to be allowable for at least that reason. Claim 18, which depends from claim 17, has been amended to correct an antecedent relationship that is required by amendment of claim 17, and not to overcome some basis of rejection. Claims 18 – 20 depend from and further limit independent claim 17 and should be allowable for at least that reason. Claims 17 – 20 are now in proper form for allowance and notice to that effect is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.


Brett A. Hertzberg
Registration No. 42,660
Direct Dial: 206.342.6255

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
206.342.6200
[BAH/ab]

